or physical standards, sometime leads to uneven recruitment from different States.

Indo-US Army Executive Steering Council

475. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH :
SHRI E. BALANADAN :
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :
SHRI JAGADISH JANI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indo-US Army Executive Steering Council has since been constituted to explore the avenues of expanded defence co-operation and friendship between the two countries;

(b) if so, what are the major components of the proposals that are being negotiated in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE : (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An Indo-US Army Executive Steering Group has been constituted recently to consider Defence cooperation between the two Armies, particularly in the field of training.

Supply of Defence Equipments and Spares

476. SHRI KAPIL VERMA :
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :
SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV :
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any new agreement is being worked out with the new Republic of Russia about supply of defence equipment and spares for Indian Armed Forces, if so, the details thereof ?

(b) whether it will be on terms of Rupee payment, if so, for how long;

(c) whether discussions have been intiated with other republics of the erswhile Soviet Union like Ukraine for defence supplies, if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) what steps have been taken to increase the indigenous manufacture of spares of components for defence equipment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) With the formation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the former USSR has ceased to exist. At their Summit meeting held in Alma Ata on the 21st December, 1991 the Member States of the CIS guranteed, in accordance with their constitutional procedures, the fulfilment of international obligations, stemming from the Treaties and Agreements of the former USSR, Further, Russia has declared itself to be the "State-continuer". India has recognised Russia as the successor State to the former Soviet Union subject to the condition that certain outstanding issues such as those relating to the division of international assests and liabilities remain to be settled amongst the Republics of the erstwhile USSR.

It would not be in the interest of national security to give details of arrangements that have been or are being worked out in the context of the above frame-work.